

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /052 W

----- 001938

R 170800Z SEPT 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8121

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN

SUBJ: PRESS COMMENT ON FARAKKA TEST

1. DACCA PRESS SEPTBER 16 CARRIES BSS (BDG-CONTROLLED NEWS SERVICE) STORY DATEDLINED NEW DELHI THE PREVIOUS DAY DESCRIBING "TWO BENEFICIAL RESULTS" FROM LAST SPRING'S FORTY DAY TRAIL DIVERSION OF GANGA WATERS AT FARAKKA BARRAGE (SEE DACCA 1917). ACCORDING TO THESE ACCOUNTS, THE WATER OF THE HOOGHLY AT CALCUTTA BECAME POTABLE SINCE THE DIVERTED WATER REDUCED THE USUAL "LEAN PERIOD" SALINITY. MOREOVER, IT WAS FOUND THAT THE BHAGIRATHI BECAME NAVIGABLE WHEN THE DIVERSION REACHED 16,000 CUSECS. THE STORY THEN STRIKES A LESS OPTIMISTIC NOTE BY POINTING OUT THAT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DIVERSION IN FLUSHING SILT FROM THE HOOGHLY AT CALCUTTA "IS NOT LIKELY TO BE KNOWN BY THIS YEAR'S EXPERIMENT", AND REMINDING READERS THAT THE CHIEF PURPOSE OF THE FARAKKA BARRAGE IS TO INCREASE THE DEPTH OF CALCUTTA PORT.

2. COMMENT: THE BSS STORY APPEARS AS A REMINDER THAT DISCUSSIONS ON THE DIVERSION OF GANGA WATERS MUST INEVITABLY BEGIN AGAIN, AND THAT BANGLADESH MAY ENCOUNTER ADDED PRESSURE FROM INDIA. THE TONE OF THE STORY WOULD

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SEEM INTENDED TO PREPARE BANGALEES FOR ARGUMENTS URGING  
AN INCREASE IN THE QUANTITIES OF WATER TO BE DIVERTED  
DURING NEXT SPRING'S "LEAN PERIOD". THE REFERENCE TO THE  
EFFECT OF DIVERTING 16,000 CUSECS SUGGESTS THIS FOR THIS  
QUANTITY WAS THE MOST GENEROUS AMOUNT DIVERTED IN ANY  
OF THE FOUR TEN-DAY PERIODS DURING LAST SPRING'S TRIAL.  
MOVEROVER, THE COMMENT REGARDING THE UNCERTAIN RESULTS IN  
CALCUTTA PORT SEEMS INTENDED TO SUGGEST THAT A GREATER  
DIVERSION OF WATER OR THAT A LONGER TRIAL PERIOD IS A  
MUST.  
BOSTER

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

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**Draft Date:** 17 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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